

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th January 1902.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mu kaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 13th January says that the Shaikh of Koweit is fully confident of the support of the English, and he is therefore

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Jan. 13th, 1902.

The Persian Gulf question. making great preparations to make himself independent of Turkey. Trenches have been dug round the town of Koweit, and some pinnaces have been kept in readiness to convey arms and ammunition from the English warship when necessary. If Turkey keeps silent in this state of affairs, the danger will pass off quietly, but if she takes any steps to counteract these hostile movements, a great war is sure to ensue. The Persian Gulf question has assumed a very serious aspect. It seems that Koweit will be a scene of great warfare. Turkey ought not to give up the question simply from a consideration of the friendship which exists between her and England.

2. The same paper says that the Shah of Persia intends to contract another loan from Russia, giving as security one of the ports on the Persian Gulf. England has, however, expressed its desire to advance the required amount at a low rate of interest and without any security.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN.

3. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January writes as follows:—
Russia is at present engaged in the construction of a railway between Russian Askabad and Seistan. This railway will be afterwards extended to Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf. A fierce struggle will no doubt follow any attempt on the part of Russia to establish supremacy over the Persian Gulf.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 18th, 1902.

Russia's advance towards the Persian Gulf. Russia is advancing towards the Persian Gulf with the object of occupying a port on it. Mr. Foley, who had been deputed to Persia by the Indian Tea Association and whose report has already been published, saw with his own eyes the preparations which were being made by Russia for the purpose of advancing towards Bandar Abbas. She has firmly established her power in Persia by granting a loan of three crores of rupees to the Shah, who has, in return, surrendered the Persian excise to her.

The matter has created a great commotion in England. The avowed object of Russia is extension of commerce and not acquisition of dominions. But who can put faith in her words? It has always been her policy to enlarge her dominions on the pretext of extending her commerce. She cannot, moreover, expect to gain any commercial advantage by the projected railway. Trans-Caspiana and Turkistan are barren and unproductive. The average population there is about 9 per square mile; so that Russia does not expect such abundant harvests in them as it will be worth the while of the railway to transport. Again, she does not like the import of foreign articles into her dominions. This is proved by the high duties she has imposed on Indian goods in Central Asia. She is, moreover, trying her best to hamper the import of Indian goods into Persia. It is for the same purpose and at her instance that the Shah is trying to impose a quarantine on foreign goods except those coming from Russia in Persian ports on the pretext of preventing the spread of the plague and cholera in Persia. Under such circumstances, none but a mad man can believe that Russia is constructing 900 miles of railway through the Persian deserts for the purpose of facilitating exports and imports. The *Times* truly says:—"There will be neither exports nor imports travelling over the railway and out of or into the port, and the port is wanted by Russia not for commercial, but for strategical purposes. She would fortify it; she would establish an arsenal and build docks; and she would acquire a predominant position in all the country behind it, as she fortified and equipped Port Arthur and acquired dominance over Manchuria. We must be under no delusion on this point."

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

4. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th January says that the chaukidars under the Kendua thana in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district seldom go on their nightly rounds. They keep good terms with

HITAVADI,
Jan. 17th, 1902.

dafadars, who make notes in their diaries that they regularly go on rounds. The dafadars then induce some villagers to sign their diaries. If panchayets report against the chaukidars at the thana, their reports are disbelieved and the chaukidars become their enemies, and do not help them in collecting the chaukidari tax. Many chaukidars are day-labourers who refuse to go with the panchayets collecting taxes if they are not paid their *khori*.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 19th, 1902.

5. Referring to the case in which one Radhika Mohan Shaha, an inhabitant of Sangir-hat under the Keraniganj thana, in the Dacca district, was charged with having counterfeit coins in his possession and sent up for trial by Babu Kali Prasanna Das, the Sub-Inspector of the thana, the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 19th January says that the accused person has been acquitted by Babu Atal Bihari Maitra, Deputy Magistrate, and that the arbitrary conduct of the Sub-Inspector has been brought to light in the trial. Although affidavits were taken at the beginning of November last, why was the accused person sent up for trial so late as 11th January following? The Sub-Inspector himself says that towards the end of November he summoned Radhika Mohan and others to appear before him. So, when he suspected Radhika Mohan, why did he let him off without security? Ishu, the man to whom Radhika Mohan was alleged to have given a number of counterfeit coins, could give no satisfactory answer to Yanus dafadar as to whence he had got those coins. On what evidence, therefore, did the Sub-Inspector accuse Radhika Mohan? Certainly Ishu, who was found to be in actual possession of the coins and who could not say whence he had got them, was the man who should have been accused. The above is a flagrant instance of the sort of work which is done by police officers in the country.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Jan. 13th, 1902.

6. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 13th January says that Ray Girish Chandra Sarkar, Bahadur, a Deputy Magistrate of Faridpur, never takes up criminal work before 7½ P.M. Now-a-days he sometimes holds his Court till 1 or 2 A.M. The hardship caused to parties, pleaders, and witnesses is easily conceivable.

BIKASH,
Jan. 14th, 1902.

7. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 14th January says that there is a standing order in Barisal that the Small Cause Court suits instituted in that place should be heard by the First, Second, and Third Munsifs, and all papers relating to such suits are therefore kept in the first, second, and third munsifs. The present Second and Third Munsifs, however, not being vested with powers for the trial of Small Cause Court suits, their Small Cause Court work has to be disposed of by the Fourth and Fifth Munsifs, who possess Small Cause Court powers. But the arrangement is causing the greatest inconvenience to parties, pleaders, and the amla in consequence of the fact that every paper wanted in the suits which are tried by the Fourth and Fifth Munsifs has to be brought from the second and third munsifs. The difficulty can be got over by making the Fourth and Fifth Munsifs Second and Third Munsifs respectively and *vice versa*.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
Jan. 15th, 1902.

8. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 15th January thanks Mr. H. Luson, the District Magistrate of Midnapore, for the ease with which possessors of fire-arms within his jurisdiction are obtaining their licenses this year.

JYOTI,
Jan. 16th, 1902.

9. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 16th January complains of the want of a proper place in the Chittagong Sessions Court, where jurors may retire for consultation. If Government does not look upon native jurors with intense hatred it should remove the want as soon as possible. It is hoped that Mr. Ransom, the Sessions Judge of Chittagong, will set apart a room for the use of jurors.

10. In criticising the judgment delivered by Babu Amrita Lal Mukhopadhyaya, Deputy Magistrate, in the case of the Sub-Inspector, Osman Ali, and the clerk Kailas, of Noakhali, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th

HITAVADI,
Jan. 17th, 1902.

The case against Osman Ali and Kailas Kerani.

January writes as follows:--

The second witness for the prosecution was Ananda Kumar Majumdar, who had offered bribes to Osman Ali and Kailas. But Amrita Babu has dismissed his evidence as unreliable on the ground that the man who offers a bribe is an accomplice. But Amrita Babu should know that in Bengal people would rather bribe the police than engage in a quarrel with it. It is on similar grounds that he has dismissed the evidence of Imdad Ali, Ahmadulla, Krishna Kumar and Girish. He has, moreover, shown discrepancies in their evidence. "Both Ananda and Ahmadulla," he writes in his judgment, "stated that Imdad Ali was present, whereas Imdad Ali said he was not when Osman Ali and Kailas were alleged to have asked for a bribe. Ananda now states before me that Imdad Ali was not only not present, but was cautiously excluded. These are certainly very material discrepancies, which are due not apparently to forgetfulness, but to his (Ananda's) wish to improve upon the original narrative with a view to make it consistent with the statement of Imdad Ali denying his presence at the time when Osman Ali and Kailas demanded the bribe. I am, therefore, of opinion that Ananda, apart from his character as an accomplice, is not worthy of credit, and that it would be extremely unsafe to convict the accused persons depending upon his testimony, and he is the only direct witness of the alleged demand of money made by the accused persons." Towards the end of his judgment Amrita Babu writes—"for reasons stated above I am constrained to hold that there is not sufficient reliable evidence to prove, beyond the possibility of a reasonable doubt, that the accused Osman Ali and Kailas demanded a bribe as alleged." But on this ground he could discharge the accused persons and not acquit them. He has however acquitted them, saying "that being so, I have no other alternative but to acquit the accused Osman Ali and Kailas of the offences charged against them, and to direct that they be set at liberty under section 258, Criminal Procedure Code." There could be nothing to say if the Deputy Magistrate had discharged the accused persons for want of sufficient evidence to uphold a conviction. But strangely enough he has acquitted them, although in his judgment he has acknowledged that the evidence was sufficient to prove "the possibility of a reasonable doubt that the accused Osman Ali and Kailas demanded a bribe as alleged." The decision was awaited by us with great interest, not because the opinions of Messrs. Pennell and Geidt had in any way prejudiced our minds against the accused persons whom we consequently wanted to see punished, but because we hoped that the ends of justice would be met in it. But we are bitterly disappointed.

11. The same paper writes as follows:—

A strange decision.

Mr. Gaspers is a white man living in Sunamganj in the Sylhet district. One evening he saw a shopkeeper mercilessly beating a sheep. He was so moved by the sight that he instantly gave the shopkeeper a good lesson with his stick. The latter gathered some men and pursued the sahib, but was persuaded back by others. Mr. Gaspers brought a case against him and against three others as his accomplices. The second Subdivisional Officer of Sunamganj has sentenced the principal accused to undergo nine weeks' rigorous imprisonment and pay a fine Rs. 10 and the accomplices to six weeks' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 5 each. It is doubtful whether such a decision can be a becoming one in the judiciary of a civilised country.

HITAVAD

12. The same paper publishes a contradiction of the allegations published in a previous issue against the Munsif of Amta in the Howrah district (see R. N. P. of the 18th

HITAVADI.

The Munsif of Amta, Howrah.

January 1902, paragraph 9).

(c)—Jails.

13. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 14th January complains that the prisoners from the Barisal jail who are sent to do outdoor work in Kasipur, sing obscene songs on their way to and from that place, to the great

Misconduct of prisoners in Barisal.

BIKASH,
Jan. 14th, 1902.

disgust of the respectable people who live on both sides of the Kasipur Road. The prisoners were more than once forbidden to do so, and the attention of the warder who goes in charge of them was also drawn to their misconduct, but without effect.

(d)—Education.

BASUMATI,
Jan. 16th, 1902.

14. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 16th January writes as follows:—
- Text-books in the Burdwan Division. A book named "Anukramanika" has been made a text book for the third classes of High Schools in the Burdwan Division. Is the book a rival of Vidyasagar's "Upakramanika?" The dictionary meaning of the word *anukramanika* is a summary of the Puranas and other shastras. Muhammadans object to such books as "Balmiki Pratibha" and "Nimna Path," the former a text-book for the fourth classes and the latter for some vernacular classes of the High Schools, as containing lessons and pictures which are highly objectionable to them. Although Muhammadans do not allow such books as contain pictures and stories of gods and goddesses even to enter their houses, yet in the Burdwan Division their children have to read "Nimna Path" which contains a picture of a temple of Siva. Babu Ishan Chandra Ghosh's "Hitopadesha" has been made a text book for the eighth class. The original "Hitopadesha" was written by Vishnu Sarma for the purpose of educating princes in politics. It, however, cannot give a truly moral education. What have little boys to do with the subjects in politics and diplomacy with which the book deals? Hypocrisy, cunning, &c., may have their function in the field of politics, but they are not fit things to be introduced into children's books. In fact, one should seriously think how far reasonable it is, in these days of Kindergarten education, to teach boys cunning, hypocrisy, &c., by means of stories in which the lower animals are introduced as actors and speakers.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 18th, 1902.

15. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that a small-pox epidemic is doing great havoc in Singhapur, Govindapur, Goali, Khandar Vitang, Nasipur, Radhakrishnapur, Pyaripur, Dindaha and other places within the Gaibandha subdivision of the Rangpur district. The authorities should adopt measures to check the progress of the disease.

PRATIVASI,
Jan. 20th, 1902.

16. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th January writes as follows:—
- Municipal oppression in Calcutta. The power of the present Corporation of Calcutta is centralised and an abuse of that power is, therefore, inevitable. The recent dismissal of the head clerk of the Warrant Department is a proof of this. The *Bengalee* newspaper has published a report of another abuse of power, which, if true, clearly points to the necessity of vigorous and persevering agitation on the part of the rate-payers. Agitation carried on with vigour and perseverance is sure to succeed, and a remedy is certain if our just and kind hearted Viceroy comes to know of the occurrence. The occurrence which took place week before last has been reported as follows:—

The owner of a house could not obtain possession of it, being kept out of it by one Nawab Jan, a man who has at his beck and call a large number of people. The municipal people having asked the owner to pay rates for his house, he agreed to pay the owner's share of the rates, but refused to pay the occupier's share, which, he said, should be realised from the man who was in actual occupation. An attempt was then made to realise from Nawab Jan the occupier's share of the rates. The Deputy Chairman presented himself at the house in company with Mr. DeCruz of the Warrant Department and a number of people. Nawab Jan was then away from home. The municipal people forced their way into the house and attempted to take some ornaments off the person of Nawab Jan's wife. The woman took them off herself and gave them to the municipal people.

The municipal people were coming out in triumph with their spoil when they were met at the door by Nawab Jan himself. Nawab Jan perceiving at

once how matters stood, tried to give these unwelcome visitors a taste of his cudgel. Seeing the imminent danger, the Deputy Chairman lashed his spirited horse, which vanished with him in a moment. Nawab Jan's cudgel then sought the foe next in dignity, namely, Mr. DeCruz, but a bailiff having at that very moment caught Nawab Jan from behind, the latter had to give up warfare for the time. Nawab Jan was handed over to the police, but was released on bail.

Mr. DeCruz then reported to the Deputy Chairman that Nawab Jan had given a shoe-beating to his *chaprasi* as the latter was coming to office. The smouldering fire of resentment in the Deputy Chairman's breast now blazed out furiously. He directed Mr. DeCruz to follow the principle of "a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye," and the latter set out on his conquering expedition with this injunction of his chief.

Mr. DeCruz presented himself on the scene with his men, determined to achieve what his chief had failed to effect the day before. Seeing them there Nawab Jan said that he had never beaten the *chaprasi*, who was a foe unworthy of his steel, but that he would break Mr. DeCruz's bones and his chief's head. He also said:—"You are forty in number, but I can muster four hundred in a moment. But I will not do that. Come and fight me single handed if you dare." Mr. DeCruz seeing that he had a very dangerous enemy to deal with, gave up all thought of war.

The sapient municipal authorities said that here was the man best fitted to exercise *zulm* over the rate-payers. They therefore went to this powerful enemy and made him an offer of taking him into their service.

When the case against Nawab Jan came on for hearing no witness was produced on behalf of the Corporation. The case thus fell through and Nawab Jan was taken into the municipal service. Nawab Jan has thus acquired the right of exercising *zulm* over the rate-payers by successfully bearding the municipal authorities with the aid of only seven or eight men.

The illegal exactions of the zamindar and the oppressions of the indigo-planter pale before this incident.

A careful enquiry should be made into the truth of this report. If the report be true, the situation of the rate-payers is perilous indeed. They should gird up their loins to put a stop to this abuse of power, to see that they are not insulted by their own paid servants. It is hoped that the Government of India as well as the Local Government will make an enquiry into this matter, and that the rate-payers will carry on, with renewed energy, an agitation against the narrowing of the scope of Self-Government.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

17. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 14th January complains of the extremely bad condition of the part of the road between Chandpur and Faridganj in the Tippera district lying beyond Subji. In this part of the road there are not even bamboo bridges over *khals*. The importance of the road is shown by the fact that there are a registry-office, a post-office and a middle English school in Faridganj, and that Chandpur is a subdivision. In the rains water accumulates knee-deep in many parts of the road. Another road which joins this road with the Farakkabad Rajbari Road through the villages Dhanua, Pratyashi, Kumurna, &c., is also in a very bad condition. The authorities are requested to have these roads repaired.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Jan. 14th, 1902.

18. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 14th January writes as follows:—

Hardships and inconveniences of railway passengers.

The Railway Commission has been formed to consider what steps should be taken for minimising the hardships and inconveniences of railway passengers. But it is to be regretted that there has not hitherto been any sign of the adoption of any remedial measures. First and second class passengers have hardly got any complaints to make; but numerous are the troubles and inconveniences of inter class passengers and of third class passengers who contribute most to the railway coffers. Third class passengers suffer in various ways. Of course we admit that comforts and conveniences of railway passengers must vary as

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Jan. 14th, 1902.

the rates of fare paid; but we cannot admit that this can at all be urged as a reason why every effort should not be made to remedy those evils that are easily removeable.

Third class passengers have to suffer very much on account of want of adequate accommodation. Those who have seen trains going up country, know the extent of the hardship to which these passengers are subjected. They are huddled together in compartments like so many dumb animals, there being absolutely no room to sit comfortably and at ease. Every now and then there is even a free fight for obtaining a seat; and very often passengers quarrel, abuse and push each other. If any passenger appeals to a European or Eurasian ticket collector for better accommodation, the latter makes use of his well known sweet and courteous vocabulary, gives a few pushes and forces a few more passengers into the already overcrowded compartment. Everybody knows this, yet it is a matter of regret that nothing is being done to remedy the evil. This awful overcrowding of third class passengers has already been brought to the notice of Government by Dr. Banks, the Superintendent of Emigration. The Doctor is of opinion that this overcrowding is one of the causes of an outbreak of cholera among coolie-passengers at Asansole last year. We do not know what the Government thinks of Dr. Bank's Report; but nothing has hitherto been done to reduce overcrowding. Mr. Weir, M.P., during his tour in India, was also struck with the sights of the sufferings of railway passengers. Mr. Robertson, the President of the Railway Commission, has also urged the necessity of preventing awful overcrowding.

We need hardly describe the hardship that is caused owing to there being no latrine accommodation for inter and third class passengers in the trains. Everybody knows that by refusing to obey calls of nature one runs the risk of being attacked with severe diseases. In these days, public health is being taken care of with commendable zeal and assiduity, and measures are being adopted to improve it; but it is a matter of regret that nothing has hitherto been done to remedy the evil complained of above. The railway authorities, it would seem, are unwilling to provide any accommodation in this connection lest they should thereby make the railroad dirty and filthy. But we think this can hardly be a just plea in the mouth of those who have been able to run at full speed engine, train and all across the river Hooghly, and to make passages through even rugged mountainous tracts of country inhabited by wild beasts. The evil ought to be remedied at once.

Another source of hardship to native railway passengers is the absence of all arrangement for breakfast and tiffin at the principal railway stations. There are hotels at the principal stations where European passengers may obtain food and refreshments in time, and trains stay at those stations to meet their convenience. The railway authorities, of course, have nothing to do with the management or profits of these hotels; but they do all that lies in their power to help the proprietors of these hotels to cater for the comforts and convenience of European passengers. But not only do the railway authorities pay no heed to the inconveniences and hardships of native passengers on this score, but they demand prohibitive fees and perquisites when proposals are made to establish native hotels and refreshment rooms at the stations. Some time ago, a company of educated native gentlemen asked the permission of the East Indian Railway authorities to open hotels and refreshment rooms for Hindu passengers at some of the principal stations; but permission was refused.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
Jan. 15th, 1902.

19. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 15th January has learnt from a trustworthy source that some railway servants attached to the Midnapore station are committing oppression on a certain man on the alleged ground of his having travelled in a train without a ticket, after having, as a matter of fact, taken his ticket from him.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 17th, 1902.

20. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th January says that recently a menial attached to the Rampurhat station on the East Indian Railway kept two respectable men waiting long in the station in order that the ticket-collector of the station might turn up and collect their tickets. It was 3 P.M. and they greatly suffered from hunger and thirst. After a good deal of time had passed they

approached a person whom they found in the station, and thinking that he was a railway servant informed him of the condition in which they were. He replied that he feared to speak anything about the ticket-collector lest he should lose his employment and bid them go away. They have sent the tickets to the editor of this paper, who will make them over to the railway authorities if necessary.

21. The same paper says that the credit accounts of Mr. Carter, the Station Master of Rampurhat on the East Indian Railway, with many local tradesmen have become so heavy as to make it neither safe nor expedient to keep him any longer in the place. The attention of the Traffic Manager of the Railway is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 17th, 1902.

22. The same paper complains of the extremely bad condition of the road between Kukrahati and Debhog in the Midnapore district. The road possesses a weekly traffic of 10 or 11 thousand people and cattle. Cattle break their legs every week on account of the bad condition of the road. It is the only road by which people from the south can go to the Khas and Sub-Registry Offices in Kukrahati. There are eight or nine schools besides four post offices on the roadside, and the Satahata police-station is situated on it. In September last the District Superintendent of Police, while trying to ride on a bicycle on this road, fell into a tank by its side and was saved by the timely help of some chaukidars and duffadars. The District Collector and other high officials have frequently to journey in palanquins on this road. But the extremely bad condition of the road draws the attention of none of them.

HITAVADI.

23. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 19th January says that the sudden transfer of three clerks of the Dacca Railway Traffic Office on the 8th instant is almost a mystery. That they were transferred in order to reduce the office staff can hardly be believed, because the pressure of work in the office was till lately so very heavy as to deprive the clerks of the whole of the last Christmas vacation.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 19th, 1902.

Again, if reduction was meant, why were senior clerks transferred instead of junior ones? The transfer was deemed so urgent by the authorities that some of the transferred clerks were refused the "preparatory leave," to which they were entitled and for which they had applied. Some people say that the transfer had some connection with the recent public criticism of the doings of the Dacca Traffic Office. The attention of the Manager of the Railway, is drawn to the matter.

24. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 20th January complains of the want of rest-rooms in many stations on the Assam Bengal Railway. Passengers have to suffer greatly from inclemencies of the weather in these stations.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Jan. 20th, 1902.

(h)—General.

25. In reference to the policy followed by Sir James LaTouche with regard to the use of the Nagri character in the Courts of the United Provinces, as expressed in his reply to the address of the Nagri Pracharini Sabha of Benares, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 18th January observes: We do not know whether the Nagri Pracharini Sabha made any reference in their address to the question of the Nagri character or His Honour gave out unsolicited his own policy as regards that question. The Sabha, however, required nothing new from Sir James LaTouche, and the advocates of the Nagri character can hardly believe that His Honour will follow the policy of his predecessor in this question. The orders of Sir Antony MacDonnell were not understood by anybody as substituting Hindi for Urdu. No one at any rate understood them as giving undue preference to the Nagri character. But we do not know what made Sir James LaTouche say that the orders meant this. Nor do we believe that by his orders of 1900, Sir Antony MacDonnell made it compulsory for the *hakims* of the United Provinces to prepare records in Hindi instead of Urdu. What the Nagri Pracharini Sabha wants, is that the people of those

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 18th, 1902.

Provinces should be given the option of submitting their petitions or complaints either in Hindi or Urdu; that summonses and other orders of the Courts should be issued in Hindi, and that the Government should employ only those who can read and write both Hindi and Urdu.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Jan. 20th, 1902.

26. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th January says that Sir James LaTouche's reply to the address presented by the Nagri Pracharini Sabha of Benares is calculated to embolden those officers of Government who are in the habit of receiving only such petitions and complaints as are written in the Persian character, and who use only the Persian character in carrying on the correspondence work of Courts. No one wants to have the Persian character abolished from the Courts of the United Provinces. The advocates of the Nagri character only contend that those who say that the Persian character is better than the Nagri character are in error. The advocates of the Persian character say so not upon the strength of fact or arguments, but simply from their ignorance. It is hoped that in time they will see their error.

III.—LEGISLATION.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 18th, 1902.

27. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January writes as follows:—

The other day His Excellency the Viceroy, while speaking about the Imperial Library in his Council Chamber, said that he desired to make the library a fit place for acquisition of knowledge. O dearest Viceroy! You are making provision for the hungry to earn knowledge, but what are the means by which they can earn food? You are great, you are glorious; tell us what are the means of earning food.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Jan. 14th, 1902.

28. The *Tripura Hitaiishi* [Comilla] of the 14th January says that a novel method has been adopted by the pioneers of the tea trade in Calcutta to make the low class of Indians addicted to tea. A house has been hired in Machua Bazar Street, Calcutta; music is provided there every evening, the *hooka* goes round; and ready-made tea is sold at the rate of one pice per cup. The tea-cup draws many people to the place every evening.

SAMAY,
Jan. 17th, 1902.

29. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 17th January writes as follows:—
What is the cause of the extreme poverty now prevailing in India? The sovereign is the master of the subject, who is made to bow to every one of his wishes. The subject therefore naturally looks up to his sovereign as the person who can save him in days of misery and distress. But where lies any hope for the Indian people when they hear their Viceroy say that it is impossible for the Government to save them from starvation in a famine without the help of private charity?

The Viceroy has publicly said that it is difficult to save the people in the present famine. With tears in their eyes and folded hands the Indians ask His Excellency, is this the result of the long British rule in India? What does this long rule mean if Government cannot save them from starvation in time of famine? This long British rule in India means neither improvement and comfort for the people nor any substantial strengthening of the Government. The people are penniless, neither has the Government money with which to help them. Their condition is one of extreme hopelessness.

In this extremely unfavourable state of things, Government shows a singular determination not to adopt measures which are calculated to be beneficial both to itself and to the people. During the last seventeen years, the Indian National Congress, the great representative of the Indian people, has been ventilating from year's end to year's end the grievances of the people, the causes of the internal degeneration of the country, the harm that is being wrought by the decline of the indigenous industries, the ruinous loss that is being done by heavy administrative expenses, the army expenses, the currency compensation, &c. But the Government is determined to turn a deaf ear to its voice. But will such attitude of the Government bear good fruit? It will

ever remain like a stain on the name of the British people and like a black spot on the bright page of the history of the British Government, if it fails to extricate India from the miserable condition in which it has placed her.

URIYA PAPERS.

30. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 8th January states that the health of the Balasore town is good, but the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 9th January states that small-pox and cow-pox are creating great uneasiness in the interior of the Balasore district.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Jan. 8th, 1902.

31. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 11th January regrets that a large number of cattle, including sheep, goats and swine, are being carried away every week from the Orissa Division to foreign districts through the medium of the railway, and that this has increased the price of meat in Cuttack town. The writer, however, consoles himself with the thought that this state of things would, in the long run, prove beneficial, if it induces a large number of men and women to give up meat and become strict vegetarians.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 11th, 1902.

32. The same paper compares the case of Mr. Hudson, the late Assistant Political Agent of Manipur, who was compelled to retire on a pension of Rs. 15,000, because he killed a Kuki cooly, with the case of Mr. Pennell, the late Sessions Judge of Noakhali, who was removed from the Civil Service without any pension or gratuity, because he abused his superiors, and observes that the *Sanjivani* of Calcutta is right in its remark that Government has one sort of justice for one class of men and another sort of justice for another class of men.

UTKALDIPIKA.

33. Referring to the annual exhibition of fruits, flowers, works of art or manufacture, that is to take place at Cuttack in the first week of February next, the same paper advises that the Exhibition Committee should do something to induce the agriculturists in the interior of the Division to come to Cuttack and take part in the exhibition; for the real object of the grand ceremony is to improve the condition of the cultivating classes in the Orissa Division, including the Tributary States.

UTKALDIPIKA.

34. The *Al* correspondent of the same paper states that wild buffaloes are committing great depredations in that killa, and that the Raja of that place is busily engaged in killing some of the wild animals.

UTKALDIPIKA.

35. Referring to the appointment of Babu Dwarkanath Chakravarti as assessor of the Cuttack Municipality, the same paper points out that though he is fully qualified to discharge his duties satisfactorily, the fact of his being the father of the Income-tax Deputy Collector of the Cuttack district has led many to apprehend that he will be tempted to follow the policy of the Income-Tax Department and tax the residents of Cuttack heavily, thereby securing the approbation of the District Officers by showing a good jama in favour of the Cuttack Municipality, even though it be at the sacrifice of the interests of the rate-payers.

UTKALDIPIKA.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 25th January, 1902.

